

# MICHELLE JURKOVICH

Department of Political Science  
University of Massachusetts Boston  
100 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125  
[Michelle.Jurkovich@umb.edu](mailto:Michelle.Jurkovich@umb.edu)

---

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS/AFFILIATIONS

---

### University of Massachusetts Boston

Assistant Professor of Political Science September 2015-present  
Affiliated Faculty, McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies

### Harvard University

Visiting Fellow, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics January 2020-

### Brown University

Postdoctoral Fellow in International Studies  
Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs July 2016-2017;  
July 2014-2015

---

## EDUCATION

---

### The George Washington University

Ph.D. Political Science, 2014  
Major field: International Relations  
Minor field: Comparative Politics  
Ph.D. Dissertation: *Boomerang or Buckshot? Blame Diffusion in International Anti-hunger Advocacy*

### California State University, Los Angeles

M.A. Political Science, 2008  
MA Thesis: *Political Dimensions of Hunger: The Accountability of National Governments*

### California State University, Fresno

Smittcamp Family Honors College  
B.A. English; Minor: Spanish, 2005  
*Summa cum laude*

---

## PUBLICATIONS

---

“What Isn’t a Norm? Redefining the Conceptual Boundaries of “Norms” in the Human Rights Literature” *International Studies Review*. Advance Access (online) publication date: August 2019.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/isr/viz040>

- 2018 Best Paper Award, ISA International Law Section (for a paper presented in 2017)

“Getting a Seat at the Table: The Origins of Universal Participation and Modern Multilateral Conferences,” *Global Governance*, 20, no. 3 (2014): 361-373 (with Martha Finnemore).

*Additional publications (non peer-reviewed):*

“[Taking ‘Professionalization in the Discipline’ with Lee Ann Fujii](#)” *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research*, 16 (1). Published online Spring 2019. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2562290>

“[Venezuela has solved its hunger problem? Don’t believe the U.N.’s numbers.](#)” (September 21, 2016) *The Washington Post* (Monkey Cage).

“[Food is a Human Right](#)” (October 15, 2015) *Duck of Minerva* blog post in honor of World Food Day.

## **BOOK MANUSCRIPT**

---

*Feeding the Hungry: Advocacy and Blame in the Global Fight Against Hunger*  
(forthcoming with Cornell University Press. Revisions accepted March 2019. Publication in print expected September 2020)

- International Studies Association, Northeast Book Circle Honoree, 2016

## **SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS**

---

“The Politics of Aspiration” (with Martha Finnemore, *invited to revise and resubmit*).

“Economic and Social Rights and the Arab Spring: Precursors to Popular Mobilization in Tunisia” (with Dina Bishara and Chantal Berman)

“Economic and Social Rights in Development” (invited chapter for the *Oxford Handbook on Economic and Social Rights* edited by K. Young and M. Langford, early stages).

*Ethical Dilemmas in Emergency Food Assistance* (second book project, early stages. Fieldwork completed 2017-2018 in DRC, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Djibouti, and Malawi as an AAAS Fellow at USAID)

## **SELECTED AWARDS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS**

---

### **Policy Engagement Fellowship**

Bridging The Gap Initiative

2019-2020

*Fellowship (\$4000) provided annually to four scholars nationwide to fund new research projects in the 2019-2020 year which engage policy and practitioner communities in academic research.*

### **Best Paper Award**

International Law Section, International Studies Association

Spring 2018

*Award “recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of international law” for a paper presented at any regional or national convention in 2017. Awarded for paper “What isn’t a norm? Redefining the conceptual boundaries of ‘norms’ in the human rights literature.”*

**Science & Technology Policy Fellowship**

American Association For The Advancement Of Science

Fall 2017-Summer 2018

*Awarded a one year fellowship from AAAS with a placement in the Office of Food for Peace, Policy and Technical Division at USAID. This national fellowship program selects scientists with expertise of use to the US Government and embeds them in Executive Branch agencies for one year to share their expertise and research as well as learn from the policy community.*

**Watson Collaborative Grant**

Brown University

Fall 2016 (awarded)

*Awarded \$10,000 to fund a project (co-directed with Dina Bishara) "Economic and Social Rights and the Arab Spring: Precursors to Popular Mobilization in Tunisia." The funds will be used towards a survey conducted in Tunisia to assess the relative importance of four different types of economic insecurity in encouraging popular mobilization: food insecurity, insufficient health care, unemployment and access to education.*

**Venture Research Grant**

International Studies Association

Fall 2016 (awarded)

*Awarded \$15,330 as a part of the ISA's Venture Grant program to "provide support to innovative and pioneering research." Grant will fund a workshop (co-organized with Melissa Lee) which will bring together scholars from around the world focusing on cutting edge research on economic and social rights norms and sovereignty norms. Workshop will be held in March 2017 at Brown University.*

**Workshop Grant**United Nations Academic Impact Office  
& the International Studies Association

Summer 2016 (awarded)

*Co-organized a human security workshop selected for the "ISA at UNAI" program. Workshop will bring together academics and UN practitioners to discuss contemporary human security challenges (including hunger and environmental sustainability), problem definitions, and proposed solutions. Workshop will take place at the UN Headquarters in New York City in July 2017.*

**Northeast Circle Honoree**

International Studies Association, Northeast

Spring 2016

*One honoree is selected by the International Studies Association, Northeast each year from an individual who is working on a first book project in international studies. As a part of this award, ISA NE will host a book workshop for my manuscript during the annual conference in Fall 2016.*

**Postdoctoral Fellowship**

Brown University

Summer 2014-2015;

Summer 2016-2017

*Two-year fellowship awarded at The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University.*

**Summer Dissertation Fellowship**

The George Washington University

Summer 2013

**Loughran Foundation Endowment**

Dissertation Research Grant

Summer 2012

**Hoffman Conference Travel Grant**

Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (GW)

Spring 2012

<b>ISA Travel Grant</b> International Studies Association	Spring 2012
<b>Pre-Dissertation Grant</b> American Consortium On EU Studies	Summer 2011
<b>Millar Student Summer Travel</b> Institute For European, Russian, And Eurasian Studies (GW)	Summer 2011
<b>Department Fellowship</b> The George Washington University	2008-2014
<b>AAUW Scholarship Recipient</b> American Association Of University Women, Fresno Branch	Spring 2006
<b>President's Scholar</b> Smittcamp Family Honors College at California State University, Fresno <i>Four year, full scholarship (tuition, housing, book allowance)</i>	Fall 2001-Spring 2005

## **INVITED TALKS, WORKSHOPS & PRESENTATIONS**

---

Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, Boston College <i>Invited participant for the workshop "Theories of Economic and Social Rights"</i>	September 2019
International Policy Summer Institute, American University <i>Invited panelist for "Peacebuilding and Development: Engaging with NGOs, Governments, and IOs"</i>	June 2019
Tufts University <i>Invited presentation by the Department of Political Science and Tufts student organization Pi Sigma Alpha</i>	April 2019
United States Agency for International Development (USAID) <i>Co-organizer for a joint academic-practitioner workshop on new monitoring methods for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) in humanitarian operations. Workshop is funded by USAID.</i>	November 2018
Johns Hopkins School of Advanced and International Studies (SAIS) <i>Invited speaker for a SAIS graduate student conference on the Future of Conflict to discuss the ethics of food assistance in emergency and refugee camp settings</i>	November 2018
Johns Hopkins School of Advanced and International Studies (SAIS) <i>Paper presentation for the Politics and Political Economy speaker series</i>	October 2018
United States Agency for International Development (USAID) <i>Presentation to the Office of Food for Peace of food security research findings from focus groups and interviews with food aid recipients in three refugee camps</i>	August 2018
Northwestern University/American Bar Foundation <i>Invited participant for the IO/IL workshop "Global order: Same as it ever was?"</i>	June 2017
The University of Alabama <i>Paper presentation for the Department of Political Science</i>	November 2016
The Ohio State University <i>Paper presentation for the Department of Political Science Research in International Politics series.</i>	October 2016
Harvard University	March 2016

*Presentation for the Weatherhead Center of International Affairs Workshop on the Sustainability of the World's Food and Farming Systems*  
 University of California Riverside February 2016  
*Paper presentation in the Political Science department*  
 Occidental College February 2016  
*Paper presentation sponsored by the U.N. Fund and the Department of Politics*  
 Social Justice and Human Rights Symposium  
 Amnesty International August 2015  
*Invited participant for a one-day workshop on economic and social rights advocacy held at the Amnesty International Secretariat office in London, UK.*  
 Transnational Advocacy Networks:  
 Reflecting on 15 years of Evolving Theory and Practice May 2015  
*Invited participant to two-day workshop on transnational advocacy, hosted by Peter Evans and Cesar Rodriguez-Garavito and held at Brown University*  
 University of Southern California April 2015  
*One of four junior international relations scholars invited to participate in the USC Junior Scholars Research Symposium sponsored by the Center for International Studies*  
 Reed College February 2015  
*Public lecture co-sponsored by the Department of Sociology and the Department of Political Science*  
 Guest speaker, Amnesty International (Brown Chapter) Film Series November 2014

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

---

### **Bridging The Gap**

#### **International Summer Policy Institute**

June 2015

*Invited participant for a week long training to help scholars bridge the gap between the policy and academic worlds with their research. Hosted by American University.*

#### **Institute For Qualitative And Multi-Method Research**

June 2011

*Participant in a two-week training sequence on qualitative methods hosted by the Consortium For Qualitative And Multi-Method Research at Syracuse University*

#### **Summer Institute On Conducting Archival Research**

May 2011

*Invited participant for a training sequence in conducting archival research. Hosted by the George Washington University (funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation)*

## **POLICY EXPERIENCE**

---

#### **AAAS Science And Technology Fellow**

Sept. 2017-Aug. 2018

Office Of Food For Peace

*United States Agency For International Development (USAID)*

#### **Food Security, Technical Team Visit**

Malawi

June 2018

*United States Agency For International Development (USAID)*

*Met with government officials, INGOs, and conducted focus groups and individual interviews with women and youth for USAID's Office Of Food For Peace.*

**Emergency Programming, Technical Team Visit**

Djibouti

April 2018

*United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**Conducted focus groups and individual interviews with women and youth in three refugee camps to inform gender and youth considerations in emergency food security programming at USAID's Office of Food for Peace.***Development Programing, Technical Team Visit**

Zimbabwe

November 2017

*United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**Assisted the gender and youth technical team for USAID's Office of Food for Peace in conducting interviews and focus groups with development program participants in various regions of Zimbabwe.***Refine And Implement Workshop**

Democratic Republic Of Congo

October 2017

*United States Agency For International Development (USAID)**Assisted the gender and youth technical team for USAID's Office Of Food For Peace in a workshop refining multi-year assistance projects in DRC.***Selected Participant, Young Leaders Conference**

U.S. Department Of State and the Institute For International Education

November 2010

*Fully funded participant—one of 48 American “future leaders” selected to attend a week-long conference with 150 central and eastern European future leaders in Prague, Czech Republic***White House Intern**

Executive Office of the President of the United States of America

Sept. 2005-Dec. 2005

*Intern working in the Office of Presidential Scheduling in the White House.***Scholar Intern**

Kenneth L. Maddy Institute for Public Affairs

Intern for Congressman George Radanovich in his Fresno, CA and Washington, DC offices.

Spring-Summer 2005

**SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

---

International Studies Association, Annual Meeting

2019; 2018; 2017; 2016; 2015;  
2014; 2013; 2012; 2011

American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting

2019; 2017; 2011; 2010

International Meeting on Law and Society (Mexico City)

2017

International Studies Association, Northeast

2019; 2018; 2016; 2015; 2014;  
2013

Joint ISSS-ISAC Conference: Bridging the Academic/Policy Divide

2013

Annual Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching

2013

Midwest Political Science Association, Annual Meeting

2016, 2013

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

### *Courses Taught*

#### ***University of Massachusetts Boston***

International Relations: Theories & Concepts (graduate)

Human Security (graduate)

The Politics of Food Security (undergraduate)

Introduction to International Relations (undergraduate)

#### ***Brown University***

The Politics of Food Security (undergraduate)

#### ***The George Washington University***

Human Rights (undergraduate)

#### ***California State University, Los Angeles***

American Government & Society (undergraduate)

### *Teaching Award*

#### **Honorable Mention, Philip Amsterdam Graduate Teaching Assistant Award For Outstanding Teaching**

*The George Washington University*

Spring 2010

### *Additional Experience*

#### **Future Faculty Program**

Sept-December 2013

*The George Washington University*

*Selected participant in a weekly workshop series designed to prepare future professors to engage in active learning techniques, effective student assessment, and course design.*

#### **Writing In The Discipline:**

#### **Workshop Series On The Teaching Of Writing**

Sept 2012-May 2013

*The George Washington University*

*Selected participant in a six seminar workshop series designed to prepare future professors to teach writing to undergraduate students in the discipline*

#### **Graduate Teaching Assistant**

Fall 2008-Spring 2013

Introduction to International Relations &

Introduction to Comparative Politics

*The George Washington University and the Women's Leadership Program*

#### **English Tutor**

Oct. 2006-April 2008

*Los Angeles Unified School District*

*Weekly tutor in South Central, Los Angeles to students from federally designated "failing" schools*

